

Response To Final Office Action Mailed April 3, 2003

A. Claims in the Case

Claims 159, 161, 163-171, 178-182, 184-188 and 200-202 are allowed. Claims 159, 161, 163-171, 178-182, 184-188 and 200-241 are pending. Claims 203-241 are new.

B. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejection of claims 95-101, 103-106, 141-146, 148-152, 156, 157, 189 and 190. To expedite prosecution, however, Applicant has cancelled claims 95-101, 103-106, 141-146, 148-152, 156, 157, 189 and 190 and incorporated allowable subject matter into new claim 203.

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 102, 154-155, 158, 147 and 191-199 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

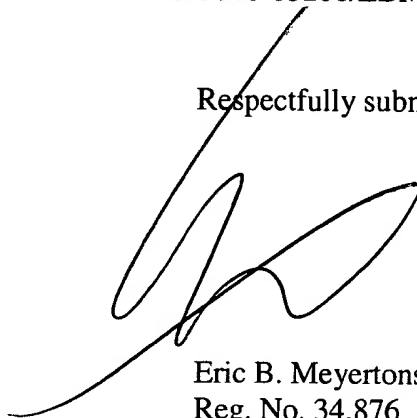
New claim 203, and the claims dependent on claim 203 (claims 204-241), now include features from claim 147.

C. Summary

Based on the above, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration.

Applicant respectfully requests a three-month extension of time. If any additional extension of time is necessary, Applicant hereby requests the appropriate extension of time. A Fee Authorization is enclosed for the extension of time fee. If any fees are inadvertently omitted or if any additional fees are required, please charge those fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account Number 50-1505/5040-03206/EBM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Eric B. Meyertons', written over a horizontal line.

Eric B. Meyertons
Reg. No. 34,876

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